



monday, april 22, 2013

the collegian

INDEPENDENT VOICE FOR KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

VOL. 118 NO. 135

Tomorrow:
High: 40 °F
Low: 27 °FWednesday:
High: 55 °F
Low: 32 °F

02

What's for lunch?
Today's Forum entries
discuss one student's
favorite sandwich

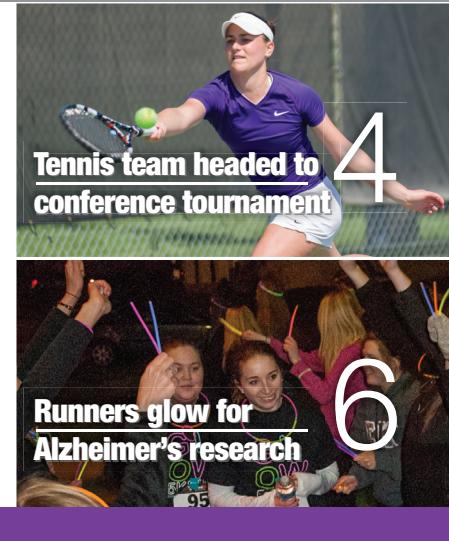
03

Keep calm and what?
One writer says the
retailer is not at fault
for the offensive shirts

04

Lost the grip
K-State baseball
suffers two losses, one
win in Stillwater, Okla.

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Local, global debates on GMOs continue



Jed Barker | Collegian

Jesse Poland, adjunct assistant professor in the agronomy department, verifies the incoming sensor data of a newly developed field-based high-throughput phenotyping platform. The FB-HTP is outfitted with GPS and a variety of sensors that measure plant color, height and canopy temperature, among other things.

Karen Sarita Ingram
staff liaison

Author's note: This is part one of a two part series on how Monsanto and GMOs impact farmers and the K-State community.

On March 26, President Obama signed a bill into law called the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2013. This bill, which provides funding to various federal agencies until the end of the fiscal year, includes a controversial section that has revived the debate on genetically modified organisms, or GMOs.

Section 735, known as the "Farmer Assurance Provision," has been dubbed the "Monsanto Protection Act" by opponents. Essentially, the provision allows genetically engineered crops to be grown under temporary deregulation status and prevents courts from interfering in the review process. Supporters of the provision argue that this prevents innovations in agriculture from being delayed and protects farmers, while opponents argue that it protects companies who produce GMOs, such as Monsanto, and allows them to market products to the public that have not been proven safe for consumption.

Linda Yarrow, assistant professor in human nutrition and registered dietitian, said the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics does not currently have an official stance on GMOs, as they have recently created a panel to review the subject of food technology. The debate of GMOs in the world of dietetics is "heated," she said. "The ones most vocal are the ones most against it," Yarrow said.

An April 10 article by Stephanie Strom in the New York Times reported that Carole Bartolotto, a registered dietitian from California, was recently dismissed from the AND panel. Bartolotto claims her dismissal was caused by ex-

pressing concerns about other members of the panel with ties to Monsanto.

While Yarrow understood concerns about having people with ties to Monsanto on the AND panel, she did not think they should be excluded from the debate on GMOs.

"I would expect people for and against to be represented," Yarrow said. "Different viewpoints need to be represented."

While the debate over the ethics and safety of GMOs has been ongoing, genetically modified crops have been used in the

GMO | pg. 6

Little Apple Pride celebrates LGBT community, allies



Starla Nyte gets into her performance, which was part of the Little Apple Pride festivities, on Saturday in Triangle Park.



Participants in the fourth annual Little Apple Pride Parade set off down Poyntz Avenue carrying signs and rainbow flags on Saturday.

Morgan Huelsman
staff writer

For the last four years, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender organizations and allies have come together to support the Little Apple Pride parade and celebration in Manhattan. This year, the parade began at Manhattan Town Center at 2 p.m. on April 20, and continued with a celebration at Triangle Park in Aggierville from 3 to 5 p.m.

K-State's LGBT and Allies and the Flint Hills Human Rights Proj-

ect are two organizations that come together each year to raise awareness, money and support for those in the LGBT community. Fraternity Delta Lambda Phi and sorority Gamma Rho Lambda were also present to support the members of the LGBT community and their allies as well.

Little Apple Pride is held each year in order to take a stance against discrimination and violence towards LGBT people and to promote self-affirmation, dignity, equal rights, community building

and celebration of sexual diversity and gender variance.

Lukus Ebert, co-chair of Little Apple Pride and junior in sociology, said that the event's timing is perfect for prospective freshmen who identify with the LGBT community.

"It is always on Open House," Ebert said. "It's to let people know who are thinking about coming here that LGBT organizations are here."

The Little Apple Pride parade is not only intended for prospective

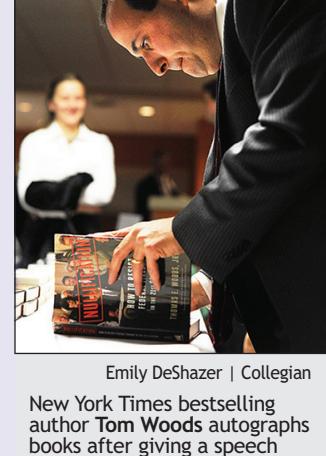
students, but for anyone who is in the LGBT community, those who are questioning and supportive allies.

Melvin Kueser, father of two sons involved in the LGBT community, thinks that it is important for those not in the community to understand who is involved.

"Members of the LGBT are just like any other human being on this earth," Kueser said. "They want to be accepted; they want to be loved

LGBT | pg. 6

Author speaks at libertarian convention



Emily DeShazer | Collegian

New York Times bestselling author Tom Woods autographs books after giving a speech on the "third America" at the Young Americans for Liberty convention at the Holiday Inn in Manhattan on Saturday.

Sean Frye
staff writer

Tom Woods, who has written two books that have appeared on the New York Times Bestsellers list, gave the keynote address at the Young Americans for Liberty convention this weekend. Held at the Holiday Inn in Manhattan on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., various speakers, including John Matta, the mayor of Manhattan, lent their time to the Libertarian convention, organized by the K-State chapter of YAL.

In his speech, Woods talked about how he believes Libertarians represent a "third America" in today's political society.

"We are the alternative," Woods said, in reference to the mainstream politics of Democrats and Republicans. "Up until now, there hasn't been room for us on the spectrum."

While Libertarians are not one of the two primary parties in the country, Woods emphasized that, with advancements in technology, it is more possible for third parties to have their voices heard.

"Anybody can use technology," Woods said. "The point is that the establishment, the mainstream opinion, they've always been able to reach the public. They can reach the public through the media and they can reach the public through YouTube. We can't reach the public through the media, but we can reach them through YouTube."

Woods added to his point that mainstream politics and economics do not need viral Internet attention to reach the public's mind.

"People don't need to go to the Internet to find out about mainstream economics, they can read about it in the newspaper," Woods said. "They have to go to the Internet to find out about us. We went from zero visibility to being one mouse click away to finding out about us."

It was a packed conference room at the Holiday Inn, and many students were on hand to watch Woods' speech, some of whom did not necessarily define themselves as Libertarians.

Most people felt hosting such a prominent speaker at the convention was a big positive for the K-State community.

"It's exciting for K-State," said Rane Cravens, junior in political science and a member of

YAL | pg. 6

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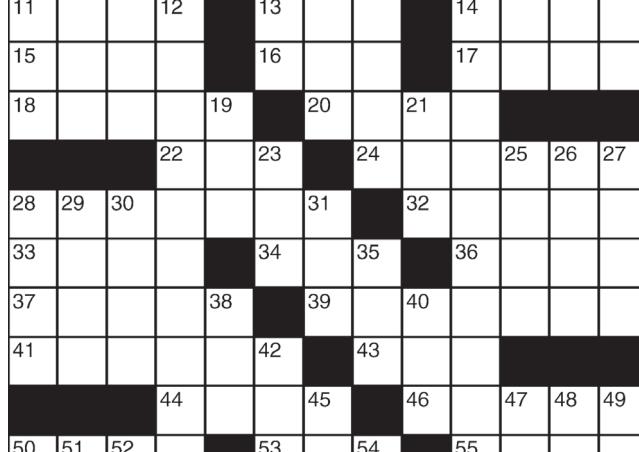
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Saturday's answer 4-22



4-22 CRYPTOQUIP

G D R F S ' M F N U R V G S C R L T O M
M X R M P R K C U , F D R Z N Q P R V U
T O M P U M S U R K Z U . G
Z U R S M M X U L R Q T O L Q Q T O .

Saturday's Cryptoquip: STRANGE NEW TYPES OF PICKLES WHICH ARE SHAPED SOMEWHAT LIKE SPRING FLOWERS: DAFFY DILLS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals M

Grab your copy of the collegian at Varney's



every day on page 2
the collegian

THE FOURUM ©
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The Fourum is a quirky view of campus life in voices from the K-State community. Positive and humorous comments are selected for publication by the Collegian marketing staff.

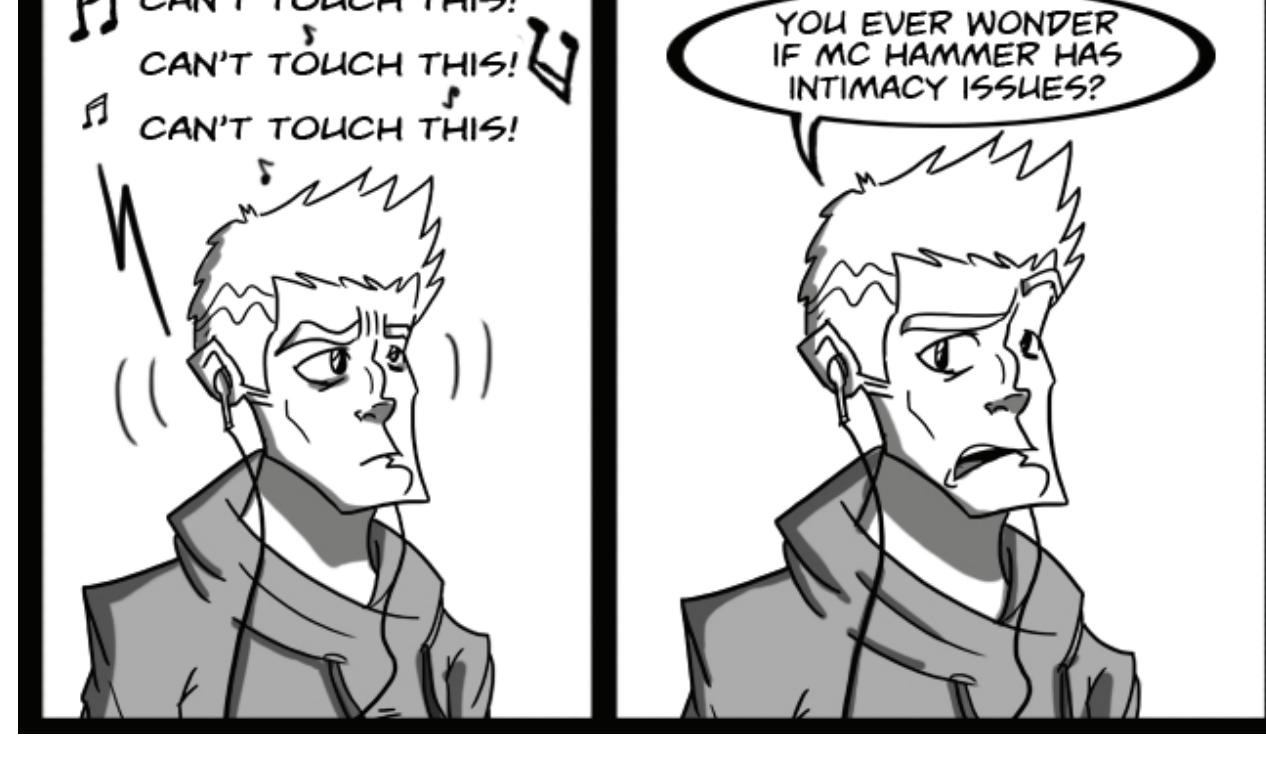
Why is it that Anderson Hall gets copper gilding while other buildings are in dire need of renovation?

I've started to really like spicy food. Its starting to make my toilet time unpleasant though ...

I ride my bike on campus, but not on the sidewalks. If I do go on the sidewalks, it's not during passing periods. Roads are there for a reason.

I just ate a cheese sandwich.

Editor's note: To submit your Fourum contribution, call or text 785-260-0207 or email thefourum@kstatecollegian.com. Your email address or phone number is logged but not published.

For the Win | By Parker Wilhelm**CONTACT US**

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Letters may be rejected if they contain abusive content, lack timeliness, contain vulgarity, profanity or falsehood, promote personal and commercial announcements, repeat comments of letters printed in other issues or contain attachments.

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CORRECTIONS

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collegian
MEDIA GROUP

Keep calm and don't blame Amazon for sellers' choices



Patrick White

Originally a World War II slogan the British Government had printed on over 2.5 million posters in 1939, "Keep Calm and Carry On," has recently regained popularity due to a bookstore in Alnwick, England. In 2000, Stuart and Mary Manley found a surviving copy of the poster in a box of antique books they had purchased and framed it in the shop. Seeing it, customers began requesting prints of the poster for sale. It then spread to the Internet and has snowballed into an online trend.

There are even current local versions bearing the message "Keep Calm and Wabash On," as well as "Keep Calm and Pride On."

One merchandiser recently got in trouble for its own spin on the trend when shirts bearing the messages "Keep Calm and Rape a Lot" and "Keep Calm and Knife Her" appeared online. The seller, Solid Gold Bomb, a company that fronts itself on Amazon, was alerted to the offensive nature of the novelty shirts and pulled the merchandise.

The official explanation is that the company was using a random word generator with a word bank from an online dictionary to create the shirt designs. They were then put up for sale online, unnoticed, by a program that was designed to show off the company's merchandise.

I have a hard time buying this. Both of the offending shirts were advocating rape or violence and one was exclusively advocating for those attacks to be made on women. What random word generator would have a such a common theme? And how did they not control for this?

Yet Amazon came under fire for allowing the shirts to be sold on. Harriet Harman, deputy leader of the Labour Party in the United Kingdom, said that Amazon should make a considerable donation, around \$10,000 or the profits from the offending shirts, to a women's shelter for their mistake, according to a March 3 Blaze article by Erica Ritz.

But why should Amazon pay for someone else's mistake? Trying to force a company to pay for consumer silence seems to be a problem that Amazon and a few



Illustration by Aaron Logan

other multinational corporations are having in Europe, as they don't pay sales tax for their European businesses.

Furthermore, if Amazon were to give the proceeds from the shirts to charity, they would be donating a whopping \$0. As far as I can find, not a single shirt sold. Instead of buying them, online shoppers reported the items en

masse. Wouldn't it be much more meaningful for Solid Gold Bomb to donate the money — if it has any?

Yet the company doesn't. The Solid Gold Bomb's sales have bottomed out since the shirts were reported near the beginning of March. The only way it could donate money was if the company held an event where part of the

proceeds went to charity, but I would hate to see that happen.

I'm not against donating to charity; I'm against giving such an unscrupulous company my money in the hopes that it gives it to charity. I'm also not in favor of making Amazon pay for someone else's mistake.

I would prefer concerned citizens just give to the charity direct-

ly rather than hope a middle man or some organization with pockets absolves them of their duty to vote with their wallets. If people want our money more than those who need it, they have to earn it.

Patrick White is a junior in journalism and mass communications. Please send comments to opinion@kstatecollegian.com.

Collaborative effort needed to solve global environmental problems



Our generation is destined to live in one of the most important and interesting time periods in human history. Technology has profoundly affected the way we interact with each other and our environment.

Science has enabled many of us to have more energy and resources than ever before. But now scientists are questioning our assumptions about how we should interact with our home planet. In celebration of Earth Day, let's take a look at what we know and how we must change for the future.

Light from the sun warms the Earth and powers our climate. The Earth's surface emits infrared radiation due to its temperature. Certain gases up in the atmosphere absorb much of this radiation and re-emit it in every direction, recycling substantial amounts of energy back to the surface.

Spectroscopy has allowed us to learn that water vapor is the main "greenhouse gas" on our planet, as it absorbs and re-radiates back to Earth's surface more infrared radiation than any other gas.

Carbon dioxide is the next most important greenhouse gas. Its concentration in the atmosphere has been steadily increasing since humans started burning large quantities of fossil fuels.

The poles of our planet are too cold to have abundant water vapor. Therefore, based on fundamental physics, increasing atmospheric concentrations of other greenhouse gases will have the largest warming effect on polar areas.

According to the National Snow and Ice Data Center, in September 2012 the Arctic sea ice decreased to its lowest level since records began. The data



Illustration by Tennery Carttar

suggests that our whole planet is warming, with significant amounts of heat energy going into the oceans and the Arctic.

The way we are interacting with our planet is increasingly threatening almost every ecosystem we study.

Our energy system is primarily based on burning fossil fuels. When we first started combusting these resources, we had no

idea how our actions would affect the rest of the planet.

We began to see local negative effects first. Particulates from fuel combustion have caused significant breathing problems for many people.

Gradually, we noticed more effects on other ecosystems. Fish far away from power plants show high concentrations of mercury and other toxins that

were once safely trapped in coal.

This has made it dangerous for us to eat fish we catch in local rivers and ponds. The many negative effects of our current energy system keep surfacing and providing incentives for us to change the way we operate.

Our economic system has allowed all of these negative

that we start now while we still have fossil fuels to fall back on.

We must also economically incentivize agriculture to move carbon back into the soil.

The changes that we need to fix the problems we have created will never occur if we believe the many people who do not understand the way the Earth works or who have incentives to maintain the current energy system.

Some people suggest that we should burn every carbon based energy form we can find in the ground, even low quality tar sands. Is there any evidence that this would not pose significant problems for our kids? Can it be proven that increasing concentrations of carbon dioxide will not warm our planet even though we know it absorbs infrared radiation? This would be a great discovery that would earn the researcher global prestige and recognition.

But, sadly, this has not happened. We must not wait until catastrophes for swift action in transforming our energy system. By then, it could be too late.

I do not know how we will solve the problems we all face together. I only know that solving them will require our cumulative effort based on the best science we have. We do have the capability to solve the problems if we act quickly enough and toward the right goals.

Learn as much as you can about these issues. Never has the survival of our species depended so critically on how well we plan ahead for future generations. Extracting more from our planet is not a solution. History can be used as a reference, but the best guide we have on the path ahead is our logic, our ability to figure out how the world actually works and our courage to act based on the best knowledge available.

Matt DeCapo is a graduate student in geography. Please send comments to opinion@kstatecollegian.com.

BASEBALL

K-State drops 2 games to Oklahoma State, wins 1

**Sean Frye**

staff writer

The K-State baseball team lost its first series since the end of March over the weekend, as the Wildcats dropped two games out of three to the Oklahoma State Cowboys in Stillwater. The Wildcats are now 28-13 overall on the season and 7-5 in the Big 12 Conference.

The two losses dropped the Wildcats to fourth in the Big 12 standings, but the Wildcats have been as high as second place in the conference.

The Cowboys won the first two games of the series with scores of 9-2 and 7-6. The Wildcats then avoided the sweep on Sunday afternoon by winning 3-2.

The most disappointing loss of the weekend came on Saturday. The Wildcats were leading the Cowboys 6-2 after the third inning. However, they allowed the Cowboys to score three runs in the fifth inning and two runs in the eighth inning,

giving the Cowboys the 7-6 victory.

Sunday's win marked the first time in the series the Wildcats held the Cowboys below seven runs, as the Cowboys only crossed the plate twice.

Sophomore shortstop Austin Fisher led the way on Sunday for the Wildcats, going 3-for-4 with an RBI.

The Wildcats got on the board early on Sunday, hanging up two runs in the top of the first inning off of RBI singles from Fisher and senior Blair DeBord.

Junior Jared King then scored a home run in the sixth inning to break the 2-2 tie, and give the Wildcats a 3-2 lead that they held for the rest of the game.

The Wildcats' next game is on Tuesday in Lincoln, Neb., where the Wildcats will take on their old Big 12 foes the Nebraska Cornhuskers.

K-State will be looking to go for the season sweep against the Cornhuskers, as the team has won the previous two matchups with Nebraska at home.

Jackie Dobson | The Daily O'Collegian

Senior pitcher Joe Flattery throws to a Cowboy hitter on Friday night in Stillwater, Okla.

The Wildcats lost the first two games, but rebounded to win Sunday, avoiding a sweep.

EQUESTRIAN

Wildcats end season as reserve national champions for 3rd time in 4 years

2013 Equestrian Seniors

Mallory Zila**Kali Yates****Whitney Unkefer****Karen Riley****Hannah Ribera****Larissa Laffey****Marie Klimova****Katie Haukos****Cody Hadrick****Meredith Finch****Sam Etzell****Cassie Collins****Mark Kern**

sports editor

After a 5-2 victory over the Georgia Bulldogs in the semi-finals, the K-State equestrian team moved on to the final round of nationals with the opportunity to win a national championship. Unfortunately, the Wildcats were unable to pull off the victory over Big 12 Conference foe and No. 1 seed Oklahoma State, falling 6-2.

Head coach Casie Maxwell said she was extremely proud

of her team.

"Our team rode their hearts out against Georgia this morning to get us into the championship round," Maxwell said. "This afternoon we just had some minor errors that OSU was able to capitalize on, and those are mistakes that you cannot afford to make in the championship round. Our hats are off to OSU on a great season and finishing up with great rides at the championship."

Against the Cowgirls, juniors

Jordan Cox and Jesse Johnson were able to score points for the Wildcats in the match.

This year's reserve national championship for the Wildcats is the third in the past four seasons for K-State.

After the match, Maxwell discussed the legacy of this season's senior class.

"I am incredibly proud of our seniors for bringing their all this week, and we are pleased to send them out with three reserve national championships under their belt," Maxwell said.

Kynard ties record, sets another

Mark Kern
sports editor

A silver medalist in the 2012 Olympics, Erik Kynard set another mark on Saturday as he tied a school record with a jump of 2.34 meters (7-0.00) at the Mt. SAC Relays in Walnut, Calif.

The jump was also the highest in the world for this outdoor season, and Kynard was able to defeat top contenders in the high jump, including Jesse Williams and Michael Mason.

All three of the competitors were able to clear the bar at 2.31 meters (7-0.00), but only Kynard could clear the bar at 2.34 meters.

Kynard and rest of his teammates will be back in action on April 24, when some of the members compete in Lincoln, Neb., while the rest of the squad will be in the Drake Relays in Des Moines, Iowa, starting on April 25.

TENNIS

Weekend sweep marks end of regular season

John Zetmeir
staff writer

The No. 52 K-State women's tennis team bounced back in a huge way this weekend, sweeping both Iowa State and West Virginia at home to wrap up the Big 12 Conference regular season.

On Friday, the Wildcats ended a four-match losing streak by defeating the Iowa State Cyclones 7-0.

The hot streak continued into Sunday's dual against the West Virginia Mountaineers, as the Wildcats once again scored a 7-0 victory.

Sunday was K-State's final match of the regular season as well as senior night for the trio of Karla Bonacic, Carmen Borau Ramos and Ana Gomez Aleman.

Junior Petra Niedermayerova collected two more victories over the weekend to push her into a tie for second all-time in school history with 77 wins. The all-time wins record for K-State is 79, a mark that Niedermayerova could reach during the post-season.

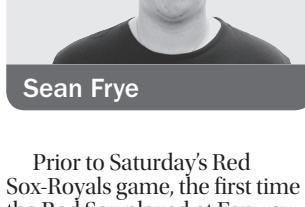
The Wildcats ended the season with a record of 9-10 overall and 3-6 in the Big 12. The team will now travel to the 2013 Big 12 Women's Tennis Championships in Norman, Okla., slated for April 25-28.

Emily DeShazer | Collegian

Senior tennis player Karla Bonacic returns a hit from Texas' Ariel Ellis on April 13 at Wamego Recreation Complex. K-State's three seniors, Bonacic, Carmen Borau Ramos and Ana Gomez Aleman, all defeated their West Virginian opponents this Sunday in their last home match as Wildcats.



Boston exemplifies how sports can bring communities together



Sean Frye

Prior to Saturday's Red Sox-Royals game, the first time the Red Sox played at Fenway Park since last Monday's bombings, Red Sox superstar David Ortiz gave a speech to the crowd.

In his speech, Ortiz emphatically proclaimed, "This is our f***ing city, and no one is going to dictate our freedom."

It may have been a controversial choice of words, but

they perfectly conveyed the attitude of the city, as well as that of many people around the country.

Later in the game, in the bottom of the eighth inning with the Red Sox trailing 2-1, Red Sox right fielder Daniel Nava blasted a three-run homer that sent an emotional Boston crowd into a frenzy.

Sports play such a huge role within hometowns. As Peter Gammons, a hall of fame baseball writer, said during the Fox Sports television broadcast of Saturday's game, this is particularly true with baseball because of how many games are played.

Every day, the teams we root for are a part of our lives. They give cities something to cheer for, even in the darkest of

times. And as was displayed on Saturday, they help communities return to normalcy.

Just one day prior to Saturday's game, the entire city of Boston and the surrounding areas were locked down and virtually deserted due to the massive manhunt for Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, the second suspect in the Boston Marathon bombings. Tsarnaev was apprehended by law enforcement on Friday night, which finally allowed citizens in that area to breathe a sigh of relief.

Then on Saturday, it was back to business. And that included filling the seats with over 30,000 fans at Fenway Park to watch the Red Sox come from behind against the Royals to win the game 4-3.

For a week, a city was para-

lyzed. But it was the Red Sox, along with the NHL's Boston Bruins earlier in the week that gave Bostonians a sense of unity.

The video of Bruins fans singing the national anthem was so moving and powerful; it really demonstrated how the residents of Boston react under such trying circumstances.

While sports helped unite the city of Boston, they also gave the entire country a channel to show its support for a grieving city.

At ballparks across the country, fans honored the city of Boston by singing along to "Sweet Caroline," a Neil Diamond song that is traditionally played in the eighth inning of Red Sox games at Fenway Park.

Even the New York Yankees, bitter rivals of the Red Sox, played the song at Yankee Stadium to show that, in the words of Jon Stewart, it's a sibling rivalry between the two teams at the end of the day.

Neil Diamond himself showed up to Saturday's game to perform the song live in front of Red Sox fans.

This is not the first time in recent memory that sports have played a healing role for a city.

On a cold Saturday morning last December, the Kansas City Chiefs dealt with the tragedy of Jovan Belcher, who killed his girlfriend and then drove to the Chiefs' practice facility and shot himself in front of former head coach Romeo Crennel and former general manager

Scott Pioli.

The very next day, the Chiefs took the field to face the Carolina Panthers. Fans, who for most of the season had voiced their displeasure with their team during games, showed up in full force.

So many people, including myself, have many things to criticize about the world of sports. But at the end of the day, sports give people something to be emotional about. And in times of tragedy, they give us an opportunity to come together as a community to heal, to celebrate and to try to move on.

Sean Frye is a junior in journalism and mass communications. Please send comments to sports@kstatecollegian.com.

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- Leadership and Service Kat Lopez

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110

Rent-Apt. Unfurnished

THREE-BEDROOM CLOSE TO KSU. 1838 Anderson \$960. 516 N. 14th \$945. 519 N. Manhattan \$930. 1225 Ramone \$930. 1019 Fremont \$855. No pets. 785-537-1746 or 785-539-1545.

THREE-BEDROOM ONE bath main floor apartment. 931 Vatter, August, \$650 water/gas/trash paid, washer/dryer/window air-conditioner, pets okay. Close to campus, Aggierville. 785-539-4949 or thebrummett5@gmail.com.♦

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Rent-Apt. Unfurnished

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120

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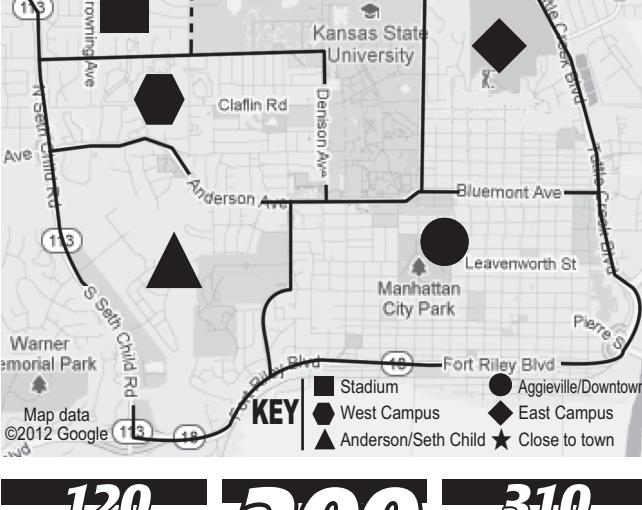
TWO-BEDROOM, ONE bath, \$600. Three-bedroom, two baths, \$1000. Close to campus. Updated kitchen, washer/dryer. No pets. 785-317-5026.

THE COLLEGIAN cannot verify the financial potential of advertisements in the Employment Opportunities classifications. Readers are advised to approach any such business opportunity with reasonable caution. The Collegian urges our readers to contact the Better Business Bureau, 501 SE Jefferson, Topeka, KS 66607-1190. 785-232-0454.

the collegian

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120

Rent-Houses & Duplexes

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300

Employment/Careers

310

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Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

4 9 7 3
9 4 7 1 2 6 5 3 7

6 9 1 5 2 7 8
1 2 3 4 6 5 2 9 8

8 9 5 6 7 8 4 3 2
4 2 6 9 1 5 3 7 6

3 5 7 9 4 8 6 2 1
4 7 9 8 1 2 3 5 6

1 8 6 5 3 9 7 4 2
2 9 5 7 8 1 4 6 3

7 1 3 4 6 5 2 9 8
6 5 4 3 2 1 8 7 9

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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Answer to the last Sudoku.

6 2 1 3 5 7 9 8 4
9 4 8 1 2 6 5 3 7

5 3 7 9 4 8 6 2 1
4 7 9 8 1 2 3 5 6

1 8 6 5 3 9 7 4 2
2 9 5 7 8 1 4 6 3

7 1 3 4 6 5 2 9 8
6 5 4 3 2 1 8 7 9

Difficulty Level ★★★

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Topics in Mass Communications (MC 290)

Application deadline 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 23, 2013

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If you are a graphic design major and would like an on-campus Fall 2013 internship for credit, consider advertising design. Your art department adviser's permission is required. Apply online at kstatecollegian.com/apply/ or stop by Kedzie 113 for more information.

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fall 2

GMO | Pollen trespass a major issue, professor says

Continued from page 1

U.S. for years, and the percent of crops grown in the U.S. that are genetically modified has been steadily growing. According to an Oct. 30, 2012, article by Margie Kelley in the Huffington Post, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported that nearly all of the corn, soy and canola grown in the U.S. is bioengineered.

GMO crops are on the rise worldwide, but many countries have created full or partial bans on the cultivation or import of GMO crops, including Peru, Japan, Russia and many European countries. In January, Poland was the most recent country to ban the cultivation of genetically modified crops. Other countries, such as Germany, allow GMOs, but have restrictions on how they can be used. Some countries, such as Australia, allow GMOs to be in their food, but require it be clearly labeled for consumers.

Yarrow said one of the reasons the U.S. was hesitant to label GMOs in food is because it can create misinterpretation of the facts. If a food is labeled as containing GMOs, while others are labeled as GMO-free, it can make some consumers believe GMOs are bad for them, even if scientific evidence shows it to be safe. In the late 1980s, Yarrow recalled that there was a brand of root beer that had "cholesterol-free" on their label as a marketing gimmick. This led some consumers to believe that other brands of root beer contained cholesterol, when this was not the case.

"I'm not against providing information on labels for consumers," Yarrow said. "But many consumers do not know how to read and interpret labels correctly."

Brian Lindshield, assistant professor in human nutrition, said that genetic engineering accomplishes things faster than traditional breeding methods do, but the end result is the same goal: crops that are resistant to certain pesticides, diseases, insects, drought or other dangers to higher product yield.

"I feel like if you understand the science of genetically modifying, it's really not that different from traditional breeding," Lindshield said.

Both Lindshield and Yarrow provided examples of how genetically modified crops, such as Golden Rice, can save lives. Golden Rice has been engineered to contain beta carotene, a precursor of vitamin A. In developing nations where malnutrition is a serious issue, Golden Rice could prevent millions of people from blindness and even death as a result of vitamin A deficiency.

While Yarrow said she was unde-

cided on the debate of GMOs, products like Golden Rice had potential, as long as it was tested and proven to be safe.

"Give me something like Golden Rice that could change global health, and that could possibly change my perspective," Yarrow said.

Lindshield said that with the rising global population, bioengineered crops would probably become more necessary in the future. Nutritionists often state that people do not get enough Omega-3 fatty acids in their diet.

The best source for Omega-3s is fish, but overfishing and pollution have begun to take their toll on that source. Monsanto is currently developing an engineered soybean crop that contains stearidonic acid, a long-chain Omega-3 fatty acid that is better utilized by the body than the short-chain Omega-3s found in other plant sources, such as flax seeds.

While GMOs have the potential to save lives and better serve an ever-growing population base, the growing usage of GMOs in the U.S. has led to some clashes with the rising demand for certified organic food.

Rhonda Janke, associate professor and extension specialist for sustainable cropping systems, said certified organic food could not contain GMOs. Farmers who choose not to use GMOs, however, have been running into problems keeping genetically altered material out of their crops and other products because of pollen trespass.

If a farmer is growing organic corn while a neighbor is growing GMO corn, the organic farmers product could be pollinated by his neighbor's genetically modified crops, which would prevent them from obtaining certified organic status. Some farmers have resorted to tricks, such as barriers or planting later in the season, to prevent pollen trespass, but it does not always work.

Pollen from GMO crops have been shown to impact other plants, as well. According to an August 6, 2010, article by NPR, some samples of wild canola in North Dakota have been found to contain genetically altered DNA.

Pollen trespass can affect other products, too, such as honey. Janke has five beehives on her property, just north of Wamego, and her honey has been affected by neighboring farms that grow genetically modified alfalfa. There is no way to prevent bees from picking up pollen from GMO plants growing near their hives.

"As a beekeeper, I'm pretty upset about it," Janke said.

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